GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5275
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
DNA INFORMATION FOR MANUFACTURERS OF BT COTTON
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made mandatory the sharing of DNA information for manufacturers of BT Cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) have warned the Governmentthat none of the conditions, impared address health safety;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure that small farmers are able to fulfill the conditions easily?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): Applicants seeking environmental clearance for any transgenic crop/variety, including Bt. Cotton, are required to submit DNA informations under The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules thereunder.

(c) & (d): Health safety issue connected with Bt. Cotton have been extensivelyconsidered by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry ofEnvironment and Forests. The GEAC is of the view that there is no health hazardinvolved in Bt. cotton.

(e): Bt. cotton seed packets are required to contain detailed descriptions for use including sowing pattern, pest management, suitability of agro-climatic conditions, etc. in vernacular languages for the benefit of all farmers, including small farmers.